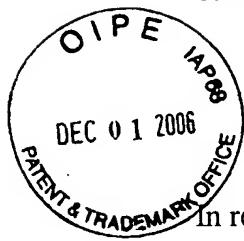


IFW

03500.103265.

PATENT APPLICATION



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

YOSHIFUMI TAKEYAMA)

Application No.: 10/569,203)

Int'l. Filing Date: October 15, 2004)

371(c) Date: February 23, 2006)

For: PHOTOVOLTAIC ELEMENT)
AND METHOD OF PRODUCING :
PHOTOVOLTAIC ELEMENT)

Group Art Unit: 1753

November 30, 2006

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In compliance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56 and in accordance with the practice under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, the Examiner's attention is directed to the documents listed on the enclosed Form PTO-1449. Copies of the listed documents, other than the U.S. patent documents, are enclosed.

Japan 11-77348, Japan 10-335688, Japan 10-65192, Japan 9-199746, Japan 8-139349, Japan 7-321353, Japan 6-196743, Japan 3-239376, Japan 3-239375, U.S. 6,121,542, U.S. 6,114,185, U.S. 5,942,048, and U.S. 5,667,596 were cited in the International Search Report which issued in the corresponding international application. A copy of the International Search Report and a copy of the Written Opinion are enclosed.

The following documents are discussed at the following pages of the specification:

| <u>Documents</u> | <u>Page(s)</u> |
|------------------|----------------|
| U.S. 4,260,429 | 2 |
| Japan 7-321353 | 3 |
| Japan 9-18034 | 3 |
| Japan 10-65192 | 3 |
| Japan 3-239375 | 3 |
| Japan 8-139349 | 4, 6 |
| Japan 11-77348 | 4 |
| Japan 11-243224 | 33 |
| Japan 2001-71171 | 37 |
| Japan 7-321354 | 42 |

English-language abstracts for Japanese documents are also enclosed.

The following U.S. patents are believed to be in the same patent family as the following Japanese patent documents:

| <u>U.S. Patents</u> | <u>Japanese Patents</u> |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| U.S. 6,388,187 | Japan 11-243224 |
| U.S. 6,121,542 | Japan 10-65192 |
| U.S. 6,114,185 | Japan 11-77348 |
| U.S. 5,942,048 | Japan 7-321353 |
| U.S. 5,759,291 | Japan 9-18034 |
| U.S. 5,667,596 | Japan 8-139349 |

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the issuance of a first Office Action on the merits. Therefore, no fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c)(2) is believed due. Nevertheless, the Commissioner may charge Deposit Account No. 06-1205, should any fee be due for filing this paper.

Applicant requests that the above information be considered by the Examiner and that a copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 be initialed and returned indicating that such information has been considered.

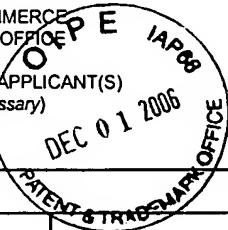
Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,



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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICELIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S)
(Use several sheets if necessary)ATTY DOCKET NO.
03500.103265.

APPLICATION NO.

10/569,203

APPLICANT

YOSHIFUMI TAKEYAMA

371(c) DATE

February 23, 2006

GROUP

1753

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

| *EXAMINER INITIAL | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | NAME | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE |
|-------------------|-----------------|----------|-------------------|-------|----------|----------------------------|
| | 6,388,187 | 05/14/02 | Takeyama, et al. | 136 | 244 | |
| | 6,121,542 | 09/19/00 | Shiotsuka, et al. | 136 | 256 | |
| | 6,114,185 | 09/05/00 | Tsuzuki, et al. | 438 | 51 | |
| | 5,942,048 | 08/24/99 | Fujisaki, et al. | 136 | 256 | |
| | 5,759,291 | 06/02/98 | Ichinose, et al. | 136 | 256 | |
| | 5,667,596 | 09/16/97 | Tsuzuki, et al. | 136 | 256 | |
| | 4,260,429 | 04/07/81 | Moyer | 136 | 256 | |

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| | DOCUMENT NUMBER | DATE | COUNTRY | CLASS | SUBCLASS | TRANSLATION YES/NO/ OR ABSTRACT |
|--|-----------------|----------|---------|-------|----------|---------------------------------|
| | 2001-71171 | 03/21/01 | Japan | | | Abstract |
| | 11-243224 | 09/07/99 | Japan | | | Abstract |
| | 11-77348 | 03/23/99 | Japan | | | Abstract |
| | 10-335688 | 12/18/98 | Japan | | | Abstract |
| | 10-65192 | 03/06/98 | Japan | | | Abstract |
| | 9-199746 | 07/31/97 | Japan | | | Abstract |
| | 9-18034 | 01/17/97 | Japan | | | Abstract |
| | 8-139349 | 05/31/96 | Japan | | | Abstract |
| | 7-321354 | 12/08/95 | Japan | | | Abstract |
| | 7-321353 | 12/08/95 | Japan | | | Abstract |
| | 6-196743 | 07/15/94 | Japan | | | Abstract |
| | 3-239376 | 10/24/91 | Japan | | | Abstract |
| | 3-239375 | 10/24/91 | Japan | | | Abstract |

OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

Sheet 1 of 1